

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2015

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation, we write to express our strong concern with unintended consequences from BSEE's proposed Well Control Rule. While we share BSEE's desire to ensure the safest possible offshore drilling operations, we remain concerned that various aspects of the proposed rule would in fact reduce safety and increase risk in the Gulf of Mexico. That said, we also request further engagement on all aspects of the rule with industry technical experts.

The Deepwater Horizon disaster was a terrible tragedy, one we understand deeply throughout Louisiana. We would argue that no one wants to prevent any such disasters in the future as much as we do. While risk can never be completely eliminated, we believe efforts must be taken to reduce that risk and improve safety of operations. We remain committed to that goal. Since 2010, the Department of the Interior and the offshore oil and gas industry have undertaken massive efforts to significantly improve offshore operations. These efforts and changes include a host of new regulations, updated industry standards and new containment technologies and response capabilities.

By applying a one-size-fits-all approach to all wells drilled offshore – regardless of the unique characteristics of each individual well, including variances in temperatures and pressures – the proposed rule in many cases will increase risk. It will also stifle innovation and delay implementation of new technologies which would improve safety and operations. We know this is not BSEE's intent, and we urge re-evaluation of the proposed rule. Safety, not convenience, must always be the driving force behind these initiatives.

More specifically, we as a delegation are particularly concerned that this proposed rule could result in a de facto drilling moratorium in the Gulf. As you can imagine, that result would not only carry with it other long-term safety concerns, but would have substantial negative impacts on Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts, as revenues received through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) could be jeopardized. Louisiana voters in 2006 overwhelmingly passed a Constitutional amendment dedicating GOMESA funds to critical coastal restoration efforts in the state. Should this proposed rule go forward in its current prescriptive nature and result in a de facto drilling moratorium, we believe it would undermine important efforts to restore our vanishing coastline.

We strongly believe additional dialogue with industry experts, through substantive technical workshops, is necessary to improve safety and fix serious technical flaws that currently

exist in the rule. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and remain committed to work with you and the Administration, to achieve safe operations offshore. We look forward to your response.

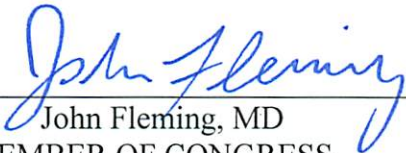
Sincerely,



Charles W. Boustany Jr., MD
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Steve Scalise
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



John Fleming, MD
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Cedric Richmond
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Garret Graves
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ralph Abraham, MD
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc: ASLM Janice Schneider